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LETTER DATED 8 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

While expressing my deep gratitude for the efforts being exerted by the Security Council for the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following views of the Azerbaijani side concerning the draft resolution and the "Timetable of urgent steps" drawn up by the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), both under consideration by the Security Council.

I should like to bring to your attention the fact that the said "Timetable" contains a number of provisions which are contrary to Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) and the statement of the President of the Security Council of 14 August. In particular, the "Timetable", in violation of paragraph 3 of resolution 853 (1993) demanding the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied areas of Azerbaijan, introduces prior conditions for such a withdrawal.

The "Timetable" does not even mention the Lachin district or the localities of the Zangelan and Kazakh districts of Azerbaijan, which have been occupied by the Armenian forces. Nor does the "Timetable" contain measures for the liberation of the towns of Shusha, Khojaly, Malybeili and other localities of the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan (in total 153) and the return to them of the Azerbaijani population, which before the conflict numbered over 50,000 persons. If adopted, the absence in the document of measures for the liberation of the said districts and localities may automatically signify the annexation of a part of the territory of Azerbaijan. Consequently, the endorsement of such a document would signify the endorsement of the acquisition of territory by force, which is a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, the "Timetable" does not provide for any measures to solve the problem of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan, of which, as a result of military actions and the occupation of a significant portion of the territory of the country, there are now over one million. In addition, the "Timetable" artificially inflates the status of the Armenian community of the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. In doing so, it totally ignores the existence and the legal rights of the Azerbaijani community which has been expelled from Nagorny Karabakh.

In view of the preceding, the Azerbaijani side cannot agree to the "Timetable of urgent steps" as it stands, and, consequently, cannot support the draft Security Council resolution accepting the "Timetable".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.